

Minutes of the June 14, 2023, meeting of the East Longmeadow Recreation Commission

The meeting held at the East Longmeadow Senior Center at 328 N. Main St. was called to order at 5:58 pm by Chairperson Tom Kaye.

Roll Call: Tom Kaye, Nancy Roberts, Don LePage, Peter Shorrock, Dan Reynolds, Bill Rinaldi

Guests to Address the Commission: none.

Approval of Minutes: none

Recreation update 6/14/2023

- St Mike's is no longer available for us - their board had a few suggestions for us if you'd like to hear more.
- Jimmy Mott, Don LePage, Kris Quinn & I toured Trinity Church on Sumner in Spfd to replace the lost space at St. Mike's. It's a longer commute for parents, but it will keep us from turning kids away.
- Recreation & the EL Basketball board will be asking the school board for Sunday morning access to fields & schools.
- John Tarbell (PT rec staff), Olga & Mary Race are working together to get TCP (time clock plus) up & running.
- School use contract will be expiring & I'd like to take a hard look at it. We are consistently getting bumped from fields/gyms or being told no to begin with. Depending on the day & the custodian working we pay between \$33.36 to 51.36/per hour. The contract states we must also pay a monitor to be there, so that's another \$16.25/hr. For games we also must have score keepers at \$15/hour each. That means it costs us approximately \$88/hour to host a game in our own schools.
- Talked with Bruce & he & I are going to work together on repairs/improvements list. What falls under rec & what falls under DPW. For example: ball diamond fences, pool paint, PK has so many needs & not one is \$20K, but if we combine. However, we all know that CIP monies usually don't make it for park & recreation needs. I cannot find the right person to lead ELF, which is where these projects need to go.
- ELF - is going nowhere.
- Met with Kim & Olga on 5/31. We have some challenges to resolve with the revolving account.
- Girls' Lax volunteers held a first annual tournament at the HS on 6/11. They had 24 teams. We have big plans for next year.
- Baseball had a successful Home Run Derby on 6/11, MNT Bank & Stanley Star Fire from Westfield Starfies were ELBA sponsors.

- Soccer is going well, but desperately in need of volunteers for the board & coaches. Kris is overseeing all things soccer. Hiring a new vendor to help.
- Field hockey is holding an intro to field hockey on 6/14
- PK Parent orientation 5pm Thursday 6/15 - Please join us if you are interested.
- PK staff training 6/20-23 - Please join us if you are interested. I can give you the agenda.
- Campers start 6/26
- Joe is leading ePact, our software for campers' medical information we use, state requires secure information be collected.
- PK is almost 100% paid upfront - Helen is leading this. We changed our registration process this year & it made a huge difference.
- Pool planning committee - pool survey shows that EL is interested in more pool time. I can share the result if you'd like.
- Senior B boys lax team won the championship on Sunday 6/11.
- PK pool has had mechanical issues this spring. Two pumps down, but Bruce is on top of it.
- PK swim meet 6/20 need help parking.

Old Business: Bill Rinaldi gave an update on the Chestnut St Property. He share the information he obtained from Longmeadow Recreation Dept. on the development of the Wolf Swamp Fields. A discussion followed about what should be our next step-continue with Heritage Park Plan, develop Hampden Road as the plan or put fields on Chestnut. No decision was made.

Discussed reorganizing to a 5-member board as stated in the town by laws. Three terms are expiring, and two members expressed an interest in resigning. The matter was tabled until the next meeting. Tom Kaye made a motion and seconded by Bill Rinaldi stating that our last official meeting to be held as an 8-member board would be held on June 20, 2023, at 6:00 at Pine Knoll Recreation Area. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussed ELF and where it should go. It was stressed that members from all facets of town especially sports teams and businesses are needed.

New Business: Discussed forming subcommittees for the Octoberfest. Further discussion of committees will be at our next regular meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:45pm

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at 6:00 pm at Pine Knoll Recreation Area located at 1974 Allen St, East Longmeadow, Ma.